IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 2.

Please amend claims 1, 19, 28 and 37 as follows:

A1 1 (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a matrix capable of delivering at least one therapeutic agent to a bodily compartment under controlled release conditions, said matrix comprising a homogeneous mixture of aqueous phase and oil phase, at least one therapeutic agent present in at least one of said phases, and at least one cross-linked polymer physically entrapping said at least one therapeutic agent.

A2 19. (Amended) A method for preparing the pharmaceutical composition of claim 1 comprising the steps of

i) preparing a mixture comprising at least one therapeutic agent and two phases, one of which is an aqueous phase and the other an oil phase, said aqueous phase comprising a polymer having at least two functional groups thereon;

ii) cross linking said polymer under conditions to form a cross-linked matrix having said therapeutic agent trapped therein.

A3 28. (Amended) The method of claim 25 wherein said controlled release conditions occur as a consequence of diffusion from said matrix or biodegradation of said matrix by an in-vivo degradation pathway selected from the group consisting of reducing agents, reductases, two or more thiol groups, an aqueous phase and an oil phase, a cross-linking agent comprising two or more thiol-reactive groups, and a therapeutically

A3 cont

effective amount of drug; and injecting said mammal with said solution whereby a hydrogel drug depot is formed at the site of injection having said drug temporarily entrapped therein.

A4

37. (Amended) A hydrogel composition comprising a homogenous mixture of aqueous phase and oil phase and at least one cross-linked polymer in one of said phases.